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ELSTREE RURAL DISTRICT

Annual Report

OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

For the Year 1950

BY

G. WINN EVERETT, M.B., B.S., D.R.C.O.G.



TOGETHER WITH

The Report

OF
THE SANITARY INSPECTOR

A. D. S. BLACKHALL, A.R.San.I.

Members of the Council

(1950-1951)

Chairman:

H. T. COURT, J.P.

Vice-Chairman:

A. J. C. CATFORD

Members:

A. ARMSTRONG

W. G. D. CAMERON

A. DEVLIN

A. FARR

MRS. A. M. R. HOOPER

H. LETCH

S. C. LITTLECHILD

N. SLADDEN

W. H. SPRATT

Medical Officer of Health:

G. WINN EVERETT, M.B., B.S., D.R.C.O.G

Senior Sanitary Inspector:

A. D. S. BLACKHALL, A.R.San.I.

Additional Sanitary Inspector:

J. S. RUCK, A.R.San.I.

Clerks:

B. G. HARRIS

MRS. I. M. PENTECOST

Public Health Department:

Council Offices, Shenley Road, Boreham Wood, Herts.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health

*To the Chairman and Members of the
Elstree Rural District Council.*

MR. CHAIRMAN, MADAM AND GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in presenting my tenth Annual Report, on the health of the District for the year 1950.

VITAL STATISTICS

It will be noted from the Statistics on page 4 that the Birth Rate is higher and the Death Rate lower than the corresponding rates for England and Wales and for the Administrative County of London. The infant mortality rate of 19.2 compares very favourably with the rate of 29.8 for England and Wales and 26.3 for London.

DIPHTHERIA

A monthly clinic is held for immunisation and close co-operation is maintained with the Divisional Medical Officer. 95 Children were immunised at the clinic during the year. For the fifth successive year there were no notifications of diphtheria.

TUBERCULOSIS

There were eleven new cases during the year as compared with 10, 15, 12, 12 and 15 respectively in the years 1949 to 1945 inclusive. These figures do not include cases reported from Shenley Hospital.

FOOD PREPARERS

During the year regular sampling of ice-cream was continued in accordance with the recommendations contained in the Ministry of Health Bulletin for March, 1947.

On the 26th June, 1950 the Model Byelaws made under Section 15 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938 were adopted for securing the observance of sanitary and cleanly conditions and practices in connection with the handling, wrapping and delivery of food and in connection with the sale of food in the open air.

HOUSING

122 permanent houses were completed and occupied during the year, 89 by the Council and 33 privately.

GENERAL

I would like to express my thanks once more to the Council for their support during the year and to the Sanitary Inspector and officials generally for their willing help and co-operation at all times.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

G. WINN EVERETT,

Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION A

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area	...	...	...	...	...	...	8,339 acres
Population, 1931 Census*	...	...	...	...			5,946
Registrar-General's estimate of							
(a) resident population mid-1950	...						
(b) average population appropriate to the calculation of death rates	...						
							14,000
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1950) according to Rate Books	...	...			
			Elstree	2,656			
			Shenley	655			
			Ridge	79			
							3,390
Rateable Value (1st April, 1951)	...	...	...				£138,444
Estimated product of a penny rate (1st April, 1951)							£600

*. Adjusted in respect of alteration of boundary in 1935.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS

The District comprises the parishes of Shenley and Ridge which are chiefly agricultural and residential, and Elstree. In Elstree the principal occupations are industrial, more particularly the film studios and allied industries, photographic processing, knitting mills, electrical accessories and light engineering. Elstree is to some extent residential, particularly on the west side of the London Midland Region Railway Line. On the east side of the London Midland Region Railway Station, in the Boreham Wood portion of the parish, considerable development has taken place in the past decade. A number of new factories were erected prior to and during the war. Various types of industry are represented including the manufacture of cosmetics and pharmaceutical chemicals, petrol tanks, ventilation equipment as well as printing and light engineering works.

The L.C.C. Estate at Boreham Wood is developing rapidly and a number of houses were nearing completion at the close of the year.

VITAL STATISTICS

					Total	M.	F.
Live Births	Legitimate	...	...	...	248	132	116
	Illegitimate	...	...	...	13	3	10

Birth Rate: 18.6 per 1,000 *estimated*
resident population.

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age

Legitimate	4	3	1
Illegitimate	1	—	1

Stillbirths	3	1	2
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Rate: 11.4 per 1,000 *total (live and still) births*

Deaths	82	51	31
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Death Rate: 5.9 per 1,000 *estimated*
average population.

The Comparability Factor (furnished by the Registrar-General to correct anomalies in age and sex distribution, compared with the country as a whole) is given as 1.05 for births and 1.15 for Deaths. The following table shows how the local birth and death rates compare with those given for London and for the whole country.

			Elstree R.D.C.	Admin. County of London	England & Wales
Birth Rate	...	...	19.6*	17.8	15.8
Death Rate	...	...	6.7*	11.8	11.6

* Actual rate \times Comparability Factor to give Standardised rate.

					Deaths	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births.
Deaths from pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...	...	...	...	Nil	—

Death rates of infants under one year of age:—

All infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	19.2
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	...	...	16.1
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	...	...	76.9

SECTION B

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES
FOR THE AREA

1. PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS

One part-time Medical Officer of Health.

One whole-time Sanitary Inspector and Meat and Food Inspector.

One whole-time Additional Sanitary Inspector.

2. (a) LABORATORY FACILITIES.

Examination of sputum is carried out at the Herts County Council laboratory. Swabs are examined by the Clinical Research Association. Samples of water, milk and ice-cream are examined at the Public Health Sector Laboratory, Peace Memorial Hospital, Watford.

(b) AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

Cases of infectious disease are conveyed by the Coppetts Wood Hospital Ambulance. The ambulance for non-infectious cases provided by the Herts County Council is stationed at the Fire Station, Manor Way and is manned by the Herts Fire and Ambulance Brigade Staff. If this service is not available Ambulances are on call from a pool controlled by the West Herts Divisional Control, St. Albans.

(c) NURSING IN THE HOME.

There are Nursing Associations in Elstree, Boreham Wood, Shenley and Ridge, supplying three whole-time nurses who work under the Herts County Council. One whole-time Health Visitor covers the Elstree Rural District.

(d) TREATMENT CENTRES AND CLINICS:—

(i) Maternity and Child Welfare

First Aid Post, Shenley Road,
Boreham Wood

Ante-Natal:

2nd and 4th Thursdays
at 2 p.m.

Infants:

Tuesdays: 2 to 4 p.m.

Diphtheria Immunisation:

2nd Wednesday in each
month at 10.00 a.m.

(ii) School Dental Clinic

Hillside Secondary Modern School,
Boreham Wood

(Closed as from 1st May
1948 due to resignation
of School Dental Officer.

(e) HOSPITALS

The Rural District of Elstree is covered by the North West Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board. Individual hospitals are managed by Hospital Management Committee Groups.

Barnet Group (No. 5) Hospital Management Committee

Barnet General Hospital

General Hospital with complement of 475 beds, with the usual medical and surgical facilities. Regular consultative clinics are as follows:—

Ante-natal	Paediatric
Dental	Physical
Dermatological	Medicine
Ear, nose & throat	Post-natal
Gynaecological	Psychiatric
Medical	Radiotherapy
Ophthalmic	Surgical
Orthopaedic	Tuberculosis

St. Stephens Hospital
(formerly Barnet Isolation Hospital)

Small general hospital with complement of 88 beds.

Victoria Hospital, Wood Street,
Barnet

Maternity Hospital with complement of 48, Maternity Beds and 48 cots.

Clare Hall Hospital, South Mimms

Tuberculosis Sanatorium.

Elmbank Hospital, Arkley

Hospital for chronic sick aged female patients with complement of 25 beds.

Mid Herts Group (No. 7) Hospital Management Committee

Hill End Hospital and Clinic,
St. Albans

Child Psychiatric and Guidance service.

Mondays to Fridays: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Saturdays: 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

(Patients seen by appointment only)

St. Albans City Hospital,
Osterhills Unit,
Normandy Road, St. Albans

Venereal Diseases:

Attendances:

Females:

Tuesdays 5 to 7 p.m.

Fridays 2 to 4 p.m.

Males:

Wednesdays 2 to 4 p.m.

Fridays 5 to 7 p.m.

West Herts Group (No. 9) Hospital Management Committee

Bushey Hospital, Bushey

General Hospital with complement of 38 beds

Northern Group (No. 20) Hospital Management Committee

Coppetts Wood Hospital,
London, N.20.
(Tel.: TUDor 1160)

All cases of Infectious Diseases (excluding Smallpox) are taken to this hospital. Bed complement 144.

SECTION C

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

I. (i) WATER

The following information with respect to the water supply of the area is given in accordance with Circular 112/50 of the Ministry of Health.

1. The water supply was maintained during 1950 at a satisfactory standard in (a) quality and (b) quantity.
2. The Colne Valley Water Company are the suppliers and have provided the following information with regard to the sampling of the water supplies during the year:—
526 samples of raw water were submitted to bacteriological examination. The results were variable.
1,985 samples of supply waters were submitted to bacteriological examination. The results were very satisfactory.
326 samples of raw water were examined chemically and the results were variable.
407 samples of supply waters were examined chemically and the results were very satisfactory.
3. The water is not likely to be plumbo-solvent.
4. There was no action during the year in respect of any contamination.
5. Of the 3,390 houses in the district:—
 - (a) About 3,361 or 99.1 per cent. are supplied from piped water mains direct to the house.
 - (b) About 16 or .4 per cent. by means of standpipes.
 - (c) Thirteen isolated houses have no piped water supply.

(ii) DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

Sewers were laid on part of the third section of the Cowley Hill Estate where 91 Council houses are to be erected.

2. RIVERS AND STREAMS.

A few cases of minor pollution of streams were investigated. Several ponds were treated with D.D.T. Insecticide as a precaution against the breeding of mosquitoes.

3. (i) CLOSET ACCOMMODATION

With the exception of about 80 pail closets at out-lying farms and farm cottages all the dwelling houses in the district are served by water closets; these, with the exception of a few which discharge into cesspools, are connected to public sewers.

(ii) PUBLIC CLEANSING

House refuse is collected from the whole of the district by the Council's own staff (under the control of the Engineer and Surveyor), and disposed of by controlled tipping at Green Street, Shenley.

(iii) SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

The prescribed tabular statement is contained in the Sanitary Inspector's report, which commences on page 12.

(iv) SHOPS AND OFFICES

No statutory action was taken during the year.

(v) CAMPING SITES

(a) The number of sites in the area which were used during 1950 was one, licensed by the Council under Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

(b) Seventeen annual licences authorising individual applicants to station and use moveable dwellings were issued during the year.

(c) Estimated maximum number of campers resident in the area at one time during the summer season, excluding holders of individual licences, 40.

(vi) SMOKE ABATEMENT

No statutory action was taken during the year. The Council is a constituent member of the London and Home Counties Smoke Abatement Advisory Council; the Sanitary Inspector represents the Hertfordshire Local Authorities on the Executive Committee.

(vii) SWIMMING BATHS

There are no public or privately owned swimming baths in the area.

4. SCHOOLS

The sanitary condition of the schools is satisfactory. The water is supplied by the Colne Valley Water Company. The schools are visited regularly by the Assistant School Medical Officer, and especially on an outbreak of any infectious disease for the purpose of excluding or examining possible contacts and advising on any necessary measures.

No schools were closed for infectious disease.

5. RODENT CONTROL

One Rodent Operative is employed part-time on this work under the supervision of the Additional Sanitary Inspector. During the year 93 domestic premises and 20 business and other premises received treatment. No Statutory action was taken during the year.

The Council operate a free service for domestic premises but

charges are made for rodent control treatment carried out to business premises.

The annual test baiting of the sewers was carried out covering the whole of the district; 55 manholes were baited and there were no takes of baits laid.

SECTION D

HOUSING

Three Council-owned sub-standard houses were demolished and the erection was commenced of two two-bedroom flats and one three-bedroom house on the site.

SECTION E

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

(a) MILK SUPPLY

See page 16 of the Sanitary Inspector's Report.

(b) SLAUGHTERHOUSES AND FOOD SUPPLIES

See page 16 of the Sanitary Inspector's Report.

(c) ICE CREAM

See page 17 of the Sanitary Inspector's Report.

SECTION F

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

There were 21 cases of scarlet fever. The disease was of a mild type, and there were no deaths. Thirteen cases were removed to Isolation hospital.

There were no cases of diphtheria. Diphtheria anti-toxin is immediately available if required.

Routine terminal disinfection has been discontinued except in the cases where other children are in the family or where so requested by the householder. Disinfection is carried out by the Sanitary Inspectors.

There were no outbreaks of food poisoning in the district.

The following table gives the incidence of notifiable diseases during the year:—

Disease	Total notified	Total cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever	21	13	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—
Erysipelas	—	—	—
Measles	86	—	—
Whooping Cough	15	—	—
Pneumonia	6	1	—
Dysentery	*13	—	—
Poliomyelitis	3	3	—
Infective Hepatitis	2	—	—

* Notified from Shenley Hospital.

Age-Group	Under 1	1 to 2	2 to 3	3 to 4	4 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 65	65 & up
Scarlet Fever		1		3	3	10	2	1	1			
Diphtheria												
Puerperal Pyrexia												
Erysipelas												
Measles	3	13	4	13	4	49						
Whooping Cough	6	1	1	3	1	1	2					
Pneumonia	1					3			1		1	
Dysentery									4	2	1	6
Poliomyelitis		1					1					
Infective Hepatitis									1		1	

Tuberculosis—New cases and mortality during 1950.

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1								
1—5		1						
5—15								
15—25	3	3						
25—35	1							
35—45	3	1						
45—55	1	1						
55—65								
65 and up	1				1			
* TOTALS	9	6			1			

* These figures include four new cases from Shenley Hospital.

Annual Report of the Sanitary Inspector

*To the Chairman and Members of the
Elstree Rural District Council.*

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in submitting my twelfth Annual Report, for the year 1950, which contains the record of inspections made, notices served, and works of improvement effected.

There was a successful appeal by an owner against a dustbin notice during the year. Throughout the country, the number of appeals has been growing for some time and the general trend of decisions seems to be in favour of owners. The view is widely held that the law is unsatisfactory, placing on local authorities, as it does, the onus of deciding whether owner or occupier shall be held responsible for the provision of dustbins.

Canteens and cafés, ice-cream manufacturers and other food preparers have been kept under constant surveillance and I am glad to report that generally a high standard of hygiene has been maintained. Regular samples of milk and ice-cream have been taken and the results have been satisfactory. Occasional failures, in the case of ice-cream samples, have led to advisory visits when suggestions made by your officers have been adopted without demur by manufacturers. In the case of ice-cream produced outside and sold within the district, adverse results of samples have been referred to the inspector of the authority concerned.

It is once more my pleasant duty to record my thanks to my colleagues and staff for their assistance during the year and to yourselves for your unfailing support.

I have the honour to be,

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

A. D. S. BLACKHALL,
Sanitary Inspector.

PARTICULARS OF INSPECTIONS DURING THE YEAR

Rural Housing Survey:

Inspections	5
Visits and re-inspections	—
Public Health Act inspections	124
Public Health Act re-inspections	130
Visits re overcrowding, including computation of permitted numbers	21
Visits in respect of:	
Infectious diseases	65
Verminous premises	63
Accumulations	8
Animals	31
Bakehouses	16
Dirty houses	24
Drainage	162
Factories	129
Smoke nuisance	11
Outworkers	33
Shops	47
Offensive Trades	—
Water Supply	57
Dairies	10
Food Preparers	187
Meat Shops	13
Milk Shops	4
Slaughterhouses	27
Stables and piggeries	13
Dustbins	24
Ice Cream Manufacturers and Dealers	81
Tents, Vans and Sheds (Moveable Dwellings)	109
Passage paving	1
Offices	19
Conveniences	24
Rats	537
Water Courses	27
Housing Accommodation	309
Milk Samples	6

TOTAL 2,317

DETAILS OF INTIMATION NOTICES & STATUTORY NOTICES SERVED DURING THE YEAR

Intimation Notices

Nature of Principal Defects	No. of Notices served.
General housing defects including leaking roofs, dampness, defective plaster, floors, window-frames, etc....	26
Absence of necessary information in rent books (Sections 4 and 62 of the Housing Act 1936) ...	3
Overcrowding ...	—
Drainage ...	14
Defective paving of yards and passages ...	—
Defective w.c. and connections ...	3
Absence of, or dilapidated dustbins ...	6
Choked and insanitary water courses ...	1
Filthy or verminous premises ...	—
Insufficient water supply (including burst pipes, leaking tanks, etc.) ...	7
Waste of water (referred to the Colne Valley Water Co.)	2
Offensive accumulations ...	—
Improper keeping of animals ...	—
Dairies and cowsheds...	1
Food preparers ...	24
Factories and Offices ...	15
Bakehouses ...	—
Stables and Piggeries ...	—
Nuisance from smoke or effluvia ...	1
Shops (Sanitary or other arrangements) ...	1
Removal of Tents, Vans, Sheds or similar structures ...	2
Conveniences ...	3
TOTAL	109

Statutory Notices

Nature of defects	Statute	No. of Notices served	No. of Houses or Premises affected
General housing defects	Section 9, Housing Act, 1936	1	1
Nuisances ...	Section 93, Public Health Act, 1936	4	4
Dilapidated dustbins	Section 75, Public Health Act, 1936	1	1

Legal Proceedings

16 Eldon Avenue (requiring provision of a dustbin)	Section 75, Public Health Act, 1936	Owner's appeal against notice upheld in the Magistrates' Court.
23 Melrose Avenue (requiring repairs to floor timbers of ground floor)	Section 93, Public Health Act, 1936	Nuisance Order made for Abatement of the Nuis- ance within six months.
London Wholesale Dairies and Theobald Farm Dairies (selling food alleged to be un- fit for human con- sumption—milk bottle contained fruit fly pupae)	Section 10, Food and Drugs Act, 1938	Case dismissed. Milk held not to be unfit.

IMPROVEMENTS CARRIED OUT IN PURSUANCE
OF INSPECTIONS MADE AND NOTICES SERVED

	No. of Houses
Repairs to plastering and woodwork	12
Floors repaired	3
Window frames repaired and sash cords renewed...	4
Leaking roofs and gutters repaired	16
External brickwork repointed or repaired	4
Dirty rooms cleansed or redecorated	—
Dampness remedied	5
Cooking ranges and firegrates repaired or renewed	—
Facilities for domestic washing provided or improved	—
Adequate water supply provided	—
Hot and cold supply cisterns repaired or renewed	4
Drains cleared and drainage systems repaired	25
W.c. and sink connections repaired... ..	6
Paving to yards and passages repaired	—
Dustbins provided	3
Water courses cleansed	—
Accumulations removed	—
Nuisance from the keeping of animals abated	6
Dairies limewashed	1
Dairy accommodation provided or improved	—
Food preparers' premises improved	11
Rooms disinfected	13
Verminous houses disinfested	19
Bakehouses cleansed and limewashed	—
Factory defects remedied	14
Smoke nuisances remedied	—
<i>Total carried forward</i>	146

IMPROVEMENTS CARRIED OUT (*Continued*)

								<i>Total brought forward</i>	146
Moveable dwellings removed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...		2
Stables and Piggeries limewashed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...		—
Conveniences improved or repaired...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...		3
Shops (Sanitary, or other arrangements improved or provided)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...		3
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	...	...		2
								TOTAL	156

ANIMALS SLAUGHTERED AND INSPECTED AND PARTICULARS OF CONDEMNATIONS

	Cattle ex. Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number inspected	—	3	20	—	107
All diseases except Tuberculosis					
Whole carcasses condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	—	1	—	—	—
Percentage (of the number inspected) affected with disease (other than tuberculosis) ...	—	33½%	—	—	—
Tuberculosis only					
Whole carcasses condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	—	1	—	—	—
Percentage (of the number inspected) affected with tuberculosis	—	33½%	—	—	—

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938

Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949

Number of retail purveyors.

No. of Licences issued	Sterilised	Pasteurised	Tuberculin Tested	Total
Dealers' Licences ...	6	5	5	16
Supplementary Licences	3	2	2	7

ICECREAM (HEAT TREATMENT) REGULATIONS, 1947

There are 7 premises in the district registered under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938 for manufacture and sale, and 14 premises registered for the sale, of ice cream.

58 samples were taken during the year of which details are given below:—

No. of Samples	Results			
	Grade I	Grade II	Grade III	Grade IV
58	31	17	9	1

Provisional Grades 1 and 2 are regarded as satisfactory, Grades 3 and 4 are unsatisfactory.

It will be seen that 82% of samples fall into Grades 1 and 2.

HOUSING

Summary of action taken

Remedy of Defects during the year without service of Formal Notices:

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	22
--	----

Action under Statutory Powers during the year:

A. Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ...	1
---	---

(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:	1
--	---

(a) By owners	1
----------------------	---

(b) By local authority in default of owners	—
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B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	4
---	---

(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:	
---	--

(a) By owners	3
----------------------	---

(b) By local authority in default of owners	—
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FACTORIES ACT, 1937
ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1950

Part 1 of the Act.

Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health.

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		Occupiers prosecuted (5)
		Inspections (3)	Written notices (4)	
Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	14	20	—	—
Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is en- forced by the Local Authority	81	109	15	—
Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises) ...	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	95	129	15	—